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Office of the Air Attache
 American Embassy
 Ankara, Turkey
 13 January 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WENDELIN:

SUBJECT: Social Relations with Soviet Orbit Officials

1. The comments prepared on the above subject by the Army Attache in his memo to you reflect in general the observations and experiences of Air Attache personnel.

2. Social intercourse between representatives of Soviet bloc military attache staffs and this office has not been developed to any great degree. The only invitation extended to Soviet bloc attaches by the Air Attache Office was for the U.S. Armed Forces Day reception in 1954 and this was a joint invitation by Army, Navy and Air.

3. This office has noted with interest the fact that Russian Attaches have for the first time started to extend invitations to social affairs held in their homes. During the past two and one-half years I have been at this station, I have observed the change from absolute rudeness on the part of the Soviets to one of open attempt to establish friendly or at least agreeable relationships. The phases in this respect can be summed up as follows: (all of which I have noted in the past eighteen months)

a. Phase I (prior to eighteen months ago). Deliberate snub -- their moving away as an American approached; effort not to be seen even passing pleasantries with U.S. military personnel.

b. Phase II (from eighteen months to twelve months ago). The beginning of the "new approach" by the Soviet Attaches. Invitations issued to a greater number of U.S. Service Attaches by the Russians; semi-cordial greetings; reserved but pleasant approach on all attache levels; willingness to engage in conversations but only in "protective" groups. Conversations with individuals as such impossible. Queries began as to why Americans did not like Russians.

c. Phase III (last nine to twelve months). Invitations to individual homes issued on their part. Suggestions that bridge games or poker games be arranged. Great effort to introduce their wives to U.S. Attache wives. Individual conversations possible and in cases initiated by Soviet Attaches. Extreme cordiality on their part. Not uncommon for Soviet Attaches to cross room to greet U.S. Attaches. Continued emphasis on equal leadership position of U.S.

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and Russia in world affairs. Constantly cite need for friendship and understanding between both countries, in order that regrettable incidents not happen.

4. In all of the above phases it has been the policy of this office to approach the Soviet Attaches in a manner similar to theirs, except that we have not entered into discussions that could lead to a presentation of an opinion that could be construed as "U.S. party line." We are willing to discuss subjects of mutual interest in "generalities" but not "specifics."

5. We have found that little Air intelligence as such can be gathered from social intercourse with Russian or Soviet bloc attaches other than to observe their changing approach, to observe the new Moscow party line, and to be available if a Soviet bloc representative should wish to "sound out" U.S. personnel on matters dealing with defection. We have not accepted invitations to participate in either bridge or poker games. Drinking is limited. Visits are of longer duration than 18 months ago but are still shorter than at such affairs given by Turks or Western bloc attaches.

(Signed) Jack P. Voigt

JACOB P. VOIGT
 Lt Colonel, USAF
 Acting Air Attache

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